



Parliamentary Procedure

Newsletter for the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology

February 2026

Parliamentary Procedure is a monthly newsletter for the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology. It is designed to keep the parents, guardians, patrons, past graduates and others informed about events and happenings at the Academy on a monthly basis. If you have any questions about events, etc. at the Academy, please call or email the following:

- Main Office 717-248-3933
- Mrs. Laura Hicks Director Ext. 5601 (ldh56@mcsdk12.org)
- Mr. Mark Crosson, Principal Ext. 5602 (mac12@mcsdk12.org)
- Mrs. Heather Haines, Director of PN Program Ext. 5611 (hhaines_pn@mcsdk12.org)

Upcoming Events/Dates to remember

Dates and Reminders

- **February 3= Closer Look Tours (Juniata County)**
- **February 4= Closer Looks Tours (Mifflin County)**
- **February 13= Act 80 Day**
- **February 18= Blood Drive 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**
- **February 19 and 20= Military Branches presentations in classrooms**
- **February 25= CTE Celebration Dinner 4:00 p.m.**



— THE —
ACADEMY

From the Director's Office

From the Director's Desk – February Edition

February is proudly recognized as National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, a time to celebrate the vital role Career and Technical Education plays in preparing students for success in postsecondary education, the workforce, and lifelong learning.

At the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology, CTE is not an alternative pathway—it is a powerful, intentional educational model that blends rigorous academics with hands-on, industry-aligned technical training. Our programs equip students with the skills, credentials, and professional habits needed to thrive in high-demand careers that directly support the economic vitality of Mifflin and Juniata Counties.

The impact of CTE at MCAST is both measurable and meaningful. According to the most recent Pennsylvania Secondary Follow-Up Survey, **approximately 95 percent of responding MCAST CTE concentrators were gainfully placed within one year of program completion**, including employment, postsecondary education, or military service. These outcomes reflect strong alignment between our instructional programs and real workforce needs, as well as the commitment of our instructors, students, and industry partners.

For students, Career and Technical Education provides:

- Clear career pathways connected to in-demand occupations
- Opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and certifications
- Real-world learning experiences that build confidence, professionalism, and purpose

For local employers, CTE delivers:

- A skilled, work-ready talent pipeline
- Employees trained on industry-standard equipment and practices
- Strong partnerships that support workforce sustainability and regional growth

As we recognize National CTE Month, we celebrate not only our programs, but also the students who commit to mastering a craft, the educators who bring learning to life, and the employers who invest in the next generation of Pennsylvania's workforce.

Career and Technical Education strengthens individuals, communities, and our local economy. At MCAST, we remain committed to ensuring every student has access to high-quality CTE experiences that lead to meaningful careers and a strong future for our region.

#GOMCASTOwls



From the Principal's Office

Dear Parents and Students,

As we face cold weather and snow, etc., we also face cold and flu season as well. We know that attendance is often affected by this. Please remember that if your student is absent, you need to send an excuse to both the sending school and to the Academy. We must have excuses on file to mark your student's absences as legal absences. Without a parent/guardian and/or doctor's note, absences are marked as either illegal or unexcused. Illegal and unexcused absences can be marked as zeroes in the gradebook and will have an adverse effect on a student's overall grade.

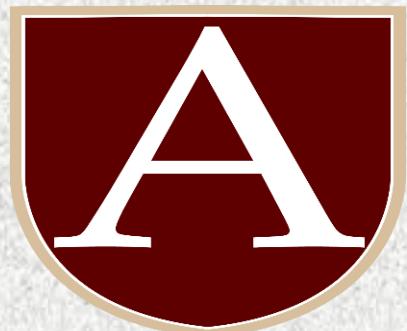
In the event that a student is legally absent (excuse was sent to the school), students will have one day for every day of absence to make up work. Teachers have discretion to give students more time if they deem that more time is warranted. You are welcome to email excuses to me at mac12@mcsdk12.org if that is easier. Please help us to make sure absences are covered by excuses. Thank you for entrusting your students to us here at the Academy.

Mr. Crosson
Principal

From the Career Coach' Office

The new student application opens on February 2nd for students that would like to apply for the 2026-2027 school year. THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 28TH. If you are a current student, you do not need to reapply unless you want to apply to change your program area.

The Academy is hosting the Air Force, Marines, Army, Army National Guard, and the Navy on February 19th and 20th for presentations to each program area regarding how their trades can benefit them in the armed forces. This is a new event for the Academy and we are happy to report this was the idea of students from the Principal's Cabinet.



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ACADEMY

From the Co-op Coordinator's Office

Student Spotlight: Kendra Spade-Yohn — Welding Her Way to Success

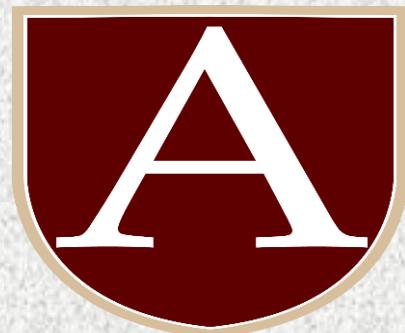
Kendra Spade-Yohn, a third-year welding student from Juniata High School, is making an impressive impact through her cooperative education placement at Hostetler Truck Bodies and Trailers.

At Hostetler's, Kendra helps build flatbeds for trucks by fabricating and welding steel components. Her responsibilities include reading build sheets, measuring, cutting, and prepping steel, laying out projects, and welding assemblies from start to finish. Most recently, Kendra successfully built an entire trailer from raw steel stock — a major accomplishment that highlights both her technical skills and growing confidence in the trade.

Hostetler Truck Bodies and Trailers has been extremely impressed with both the *quality* and *quantity* of Kendra's work, noting her strong work ethic, attention to detail, and ability to follow complex plans.

Kendra's success is a great example of how hands-on learning and real-world experience help prepare our students for future careers. We are proud of her dedication and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next!





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Skills USA

SkillsUSA students braved the cold to travel to Blair County Convention Center on Tuesday, January 20 to participate in the District 7 SkillsUSA competitions, hoping to secure a spot at the State Leadership and Skills Conference in Hershey on April 8-10, 2026. Students competed in leadership competitions and program specific skill competitions. Students who competed, along with medal placements are as follows:

Amilia Coffey (MCHS 12th grade Electrical Installation/Co-operative Education) lent a hand by participating in Courtesy Corps for the day.

Nola Demaree (MCHS 12th grade Automotive Technology) competed in Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair.

Quinn Parson (MCHS 11th grade Collision Repair) brought home a second-place finish in Collision Repair Technology.

Kathleen Williams (JHS 12th grade Cosmetology) competed in the Cosmetology competition, showing her hair cutting and styling skills.

Alexis Treaster (MCHS 12th grade Culinary Arts) earned third place in the Culinary Arts contest using her excellent culinary skills.

Bryanna Swartz (EJHS 11th grade Early Childhood Education) created an impressive lesson plan and taught it to earn a third-place bronze medal in the Early Childhood Education competition.

Ava Kratzer (MCHS 12th grade Electrical Installation/Co-operative Education) wired her way to a second-place finish in the Electrical Construction Wiring contest.

Violet Lansberry (MCHS 12th grade) and **Serena Ulsh** (MCHS 11th grade) both in the Cosmetology program, competed in the Esthetics competition, showing daytime and fantasy make up application and demonstrating a facial.

Izayah Helm (MCHS 12th grade Culinary Arts student) brought his kitchen skills to the Job Skill Demonstration A contest.

Daniel Rivera (JHS 10th grade Early Childhood Education student) showed his preschool teaching skills in the Job Skill Demonstration Open contest, earning a third-place finish.

Drakco Smith (MCHS 12th grade Mechatronics student) demonstrated excellent interviewing skills by placing third in the Job Interview contest.

Taylor Schreiner (MCHS 12th grade Construction Trades/Co-operative Education student) showed his bricklaying talents in the Masonry competition.

Cole Linn and Johnny Welsh (both MCHS 12th grade students in Mechatronics) worked their way into a second-place finish in the Mechatronics contest.

Joshlyn Tate (MCHS 12th grade Health Professions/Co-operative Education) calculated her way through the Medical Math contest.

Autumn Raffensberger (12th grade) and **Jaliyah Henry** (MCHS 12th grade) showed off their nail technician skills in the Nail Care competition.

Beth McKnight (MCHS 12th grade Health Professions/Co-operative Education) earned a first-place finish, qualifying to the PA state competition for the second year in a row!

Claire Sunderland (MCHS 10th grade Cosmetology student) demonstrated her speaking skills through the Extemporaneous Speaking competition. Claire is planning to represent The Academy SkillsUSA chapter by campaigning for state office at the conference in April. If elected, she will spend the 2026-2027 year representing not just the Academy, but Team PA at various events throughout the state and at the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA in June!!

Good luck to Claire and Beth at States!!

From the Agriculture Program

In Our Class:

Sophomore Noel Haines has started her own project in our class. She is planting three varieties of lettuce to harvest in time for the Spring OAC meeting in March. Her goal is to grow and harvest 20 pounds so that she can give it to the Culinary Arts students to prepare as part of the meal! She is also using two types of soil to see what type grows the most desirable crop.

Additionally, all sophomores have started our electrical wiring unit where they will be creating single pole projects and using multimeters to measure electrical voltage, current, and resistance. Junior and Senior students have been stick and mig welding and creating various projects, such as boot racks, jewelry holders, and boot pullers.

In FFA:

5 members received their Keystone Degree and all 12 of our sophomore members received their FFA jacket on January 12, 2026, at the PA Mid-Winter FFA Convention held at the Farm Show in Harrisburg.

Keystone Degree Recipients:

- Phoebe Keiser
- Lily Breon
- Kelsey Morrison
- Marlee Basom
- Sean Gutshall

Jacket Recipients:

- Ava Neff
- Kobi Weber
- Chloe Fisher
- Julia Parmley
- Braylin Walters
- Torri Maclay
- Noel Haines
- Elysia Glick
- Elle Halfpenny
- Makalah Stuck
- Nyah Shirk
- Giovanni Rivera





From the Construction Trades Program

Construction trade students have been busy with various projects. We are wrapping up the classroom project. Students received practice on installing baseboard, finishing and setting nails, and caulking joints for a professional finish.

In the shop, we are wrapping up a portion of the electrical demonstrations, focusing on receptacles, single pole, and three-way switching. This portion of the class is focusing on the rough-in components of construction as we transition to plumbing next.

Looking forward to warmer weather, we plan on completing the pavilion for the car show, as we are ready to set rafters and place reclaimed tin on roof and sides. Construction trades is also planning to head into the masonry component in the spring time and we are lining up cement and concrete related projects.



From the Cosmetology Program

Sophomores were asked to help at the YMCA in Burnham this month to participate in Princess Day. Students work on hair updo's, makeup and nails. Great day. Congratulations to our Seniors and competing in Skills USA.



From the Culinary Arts Program

A Busy and Exciting Month in Culinary Arts

The past month has been packed with meaningful learning experiences and exciting accomplishments for our Culinary Arts program. One highlight was our visit to the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where students explored the *farm-to-fork* journey that plays such an important role in the culinary industry. From agriculture and livestock to food production and sustainability, students gained firsthand insight into where ingredients begin before reaching the kitchen.

In addition, our Culinary Arts students selected for the **2026 Pennsylvania ProStart Competition Team**—**Alexis Treaster, Holly Guyer, Jamarcus Russell, Jack Weaver, and Brody Basom**—have officially finalized their competition menu. Their thoughtfully crafted menu includes a **Bavarian mixed greens salad with blueberry vinaigrette, pork schnitzel with herb spätzle and pan-roasted asparagus**, and a **blueberry sorbet with a vanilla tuile and cheesecake foam**. With the competition set for **February 24**, the team has now shifted its focus to practicing, refining techniques, and fine-tuning execution to prepare for the challenge ahead.

Another major highlight this month was **Alexis Treaster's** performance at the **SkillsUSA District Culinary Competition**, where she earned an impressive **3rd place finish**. This marks the **second consecutive year** our program has produced a 3rd-place district competitor—a testament to the dedication and skill of our students.

Huge congratulations to Alexis! We are incredibly proud of her hard work, perseverance, and continued success.

The Culinary Arts program continues to showcase excellence through hands-on learning, competition, and real-world experiences, and we are excited to see what the remainder of the year brings.

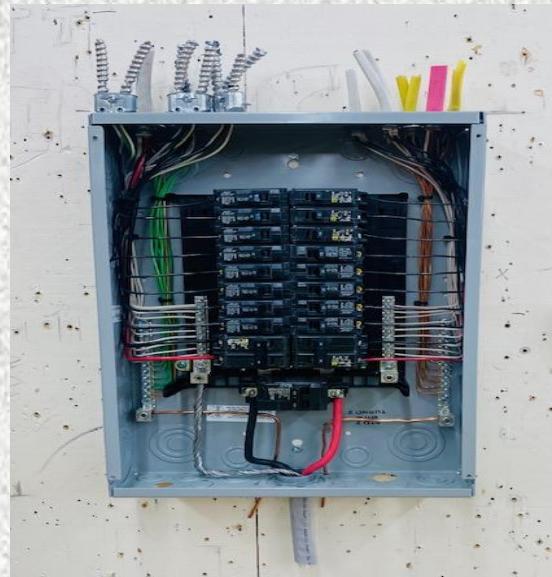
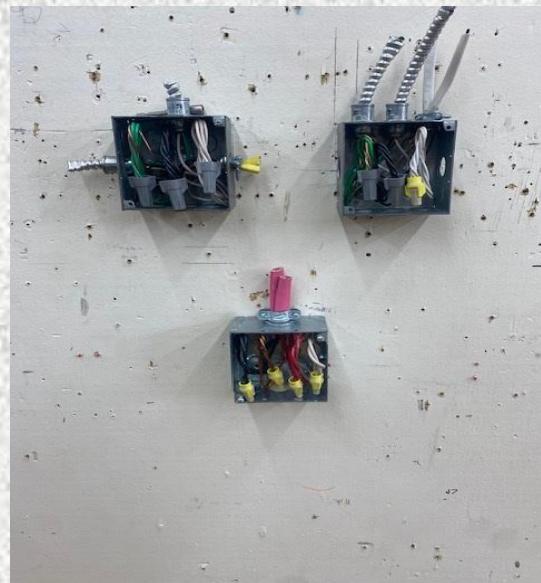


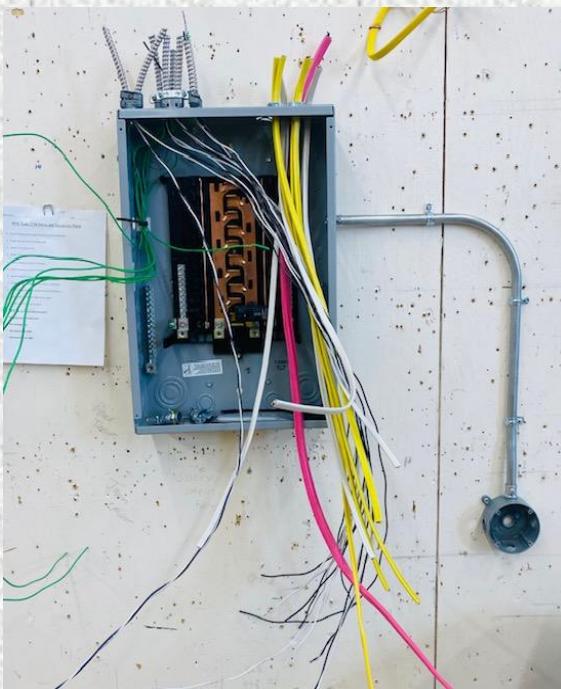
From the Electrical Program

Our Electrical Installations students have been hard at work this month, sharpening the skills that are the foundation of a successful career in the electrical trade. In the shop, students have been practicing splicing conductors—learning to create secure, reliable connections that meet code standards—and terminating service panels and subpanels, gaining hands-on experience that will prepare them for real-world electrical installations.

These activities not only reinforce technical knowledge but also emphasize safety, precision, and professionalism—qualities every electrician must master. We are extremely proud of our students for their hard work, dedication, and the progress they have made.

Keep up the great work, and continue pushing yourself to learn, improve, and master the craft! Your dedication today sets the stage for your success tomorrow.





From the Health Professions Program

This month, students participated in several exciting new learning opportunities. One highlight was the Aim Hi Event, sponsored by Geisinger and held at the Geisinger School of Nursing. During this event, students interacted with a variety of departments, including nursing, sonography, interventional radiology, and Life Flight. Students engaged in hands-on activities and attended informational sessions about each department, as well as learning about the Geisinger Junior Volunteer Program and cooperative education opportunities.

Another highlight was hosting students from Mifflin County High School for simulated doctor's appointments. Our students answered phone calls, scheduled appointments, and practiced taking vital signs during the visits. Many students were eager to participate and appreciated the realism of this hands-on experience.

In the classroom, both levels focused on medical terminology and anatomy related to the cardiovascular and lymphatic systems. Level 2 and 3 students continued progressing through the Patient Care Technician certification program, while Level 1 students explored healthcare careers. Students at all levels learned and practiced oral care for both conscious and unconscious patients. In addition, Level 1 students learned how to locate and measure an apical pulse. Students also developed board games as a way to review the content and terminology that has been covered since the beginning of the year.

Looking ahead to February, students are excited to host a blood drive with Central PA Blood Bank on February 18, 2026. The drive will be open to the public from 3:00–6:00 PM. Please watch The Academy's social media pages for scheduling information.



From the Practical Nursing Program

On December 18, 2025, the PN Seniors, along with the PN Instructor, Mrs. Lisa Becker (MSN/ED, RN), took a tour of the Capital in Harrisburg. In addition, they met with a representative and discussed political activism and healthcare.



On Thursday, January 29, the Practical Nursing Program held their bi-annual Career Fair for the Practical Nursing students. More than 15 different healthcare agencies and organizations were represented. The Career Fair gives PN students the opportunity for future employment and furthering their nursing education. In addition, Ms. Terry McMinn, BSN RN, with over 40 years of experience, held mock interviews for the seniors who will be graduating in March. Thank you to Terry and all the healthcare agencies who came out and made this such a successful event!

